appropriate Government is empowered to exempt any of the employments from the provisions of the Act.

**Identity cards to beedi workers**

248. SHRIMATI ELA RAMESH BHATT: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) how many identity cards have been issued to beedi workers, State-wise, sex-wise;

(b) whether there is any fees for the identity cards; if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the benefits of having identity cards; and

(d) whether Government are contemplating to issue identity cards to workers other than beedi workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Identity cards have been issued to 20.15 lakh Beedi Workers and the Statewise break-up is given in the attached statement. (*See* below). However, Sex-wise figures are not being maintained in the Ministry.

(b) No.

(c) The Beedi Workers having identity cards are entitled to medical facilities in the medical institutions run by the Welfare Fund Organisation.

(d) No.

**Statement**

*State-Wise break up of Beedi Workers who have been issued identity cards*

| Name of State | Number of Identity cards issued |
|---|---|
| | (Lakhs) |
| 1. Karnataka . . . | 3 50 |
| 2. Kerala . . . | 1 00 |
| 3. Uttar Pradesh . . | 2 00 |
| 4. Rajasthan . . . | 0.65 |
| 5. Gujarat . . . | 0.15 |
| 6. Orissa . . . . | 0.90 |
| 7. West Bengal, Assam, Tripura and Meghalaya | 0.50 |
| 8. Andhra Pradesh . . | 1.50 |
| 9. Tamilnadu . . . | 1.00 |
| 10. Madhya Pradesh . . | 5.65 |
| 11. Maharashtra. . . | 1.80 |
| 12. Bihar . . . . | 1 50 |
| | 20 15 |

**Accident in ECL**

249. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a fatal accident has recently taken place in an ECL mine;

(b) if so, what is the name of the mine;

(c) how many workers have died due to the accident;

(d) what were the causes of the accident; and

(e) whether the Director General, Mines Safety made any inspection of the mine and if so, what action has been taken by the DGMS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.